

Learning phonics!



At Broseley C of E School we have always valued the effective teaching of Phonics. We see how the knowledge and skills embedded through this teaching, impact across the whole curriculum. The programme we follow is called LETTERS AND SOUNDS. A programme developed by the Department for Education and Skills (DFES).

It is a very rigorous and systematic teaching programme, implemented everyday for 20 minutes.

Language comprehension is a vital role you will already be supporting at home. By asking questions, engaging in conversations, discussing stories when sharing books your child is developing their language comprehension. We continue to develop this at school.

The reading word recognition is approached through a synthetic phonic approach. One of the crucial important skills is to articulate the phonemes (sounds) correctly this ensures correct blending. The learning is systematically spread over 6 phases.

Phase 1

When young children are first learning letters and sounds they need to be able to orally discriminate between the oral sounds (phonemes) heard. Examples would be 'a' for apple, 'c' for cat. This is a very important skill and needs to be practised often. You could help your child through games such as Eye Spy, matching objects beginning with the same beginning sound, cutting objects out of a magazine and matching together etc. Alongside listening for oral letter sounds we encourage children to be all-round good listeners. This includes discriminating between environmental sounds, instrument sounds, and voice sounds. We also explore rhythm and rhyme with the children through lots of fun songs, books and word games.

Cat



rat



hat



Which is the odd one out?



Phase 2

Whilst continuing to practise these skills, the next step is to recognise the letter shape (grapheme) written down. We learn these in a special order.

Set 1- s,a,t,p

Set 2- i,n,m,d,

Set 3- g,o,c,k

Set 4- ck,e,u,r

Set 5- h,b,f,ff,l,ll,ss

To really learn these, young children need practise for short, successful times with lots of repetition. We have a 20 minute time set aside everyday for phonics but any practise they can do at home with you would really help their progress and make a big difference to their understanding.

Whilst learning these graphemes we are also practising two very crucial skills to help with reading and writing. They are **Blending** to read and **Segmenting** to write.

Blending is the skill of saying each phoneme as they see it through the word to enable them to read it.

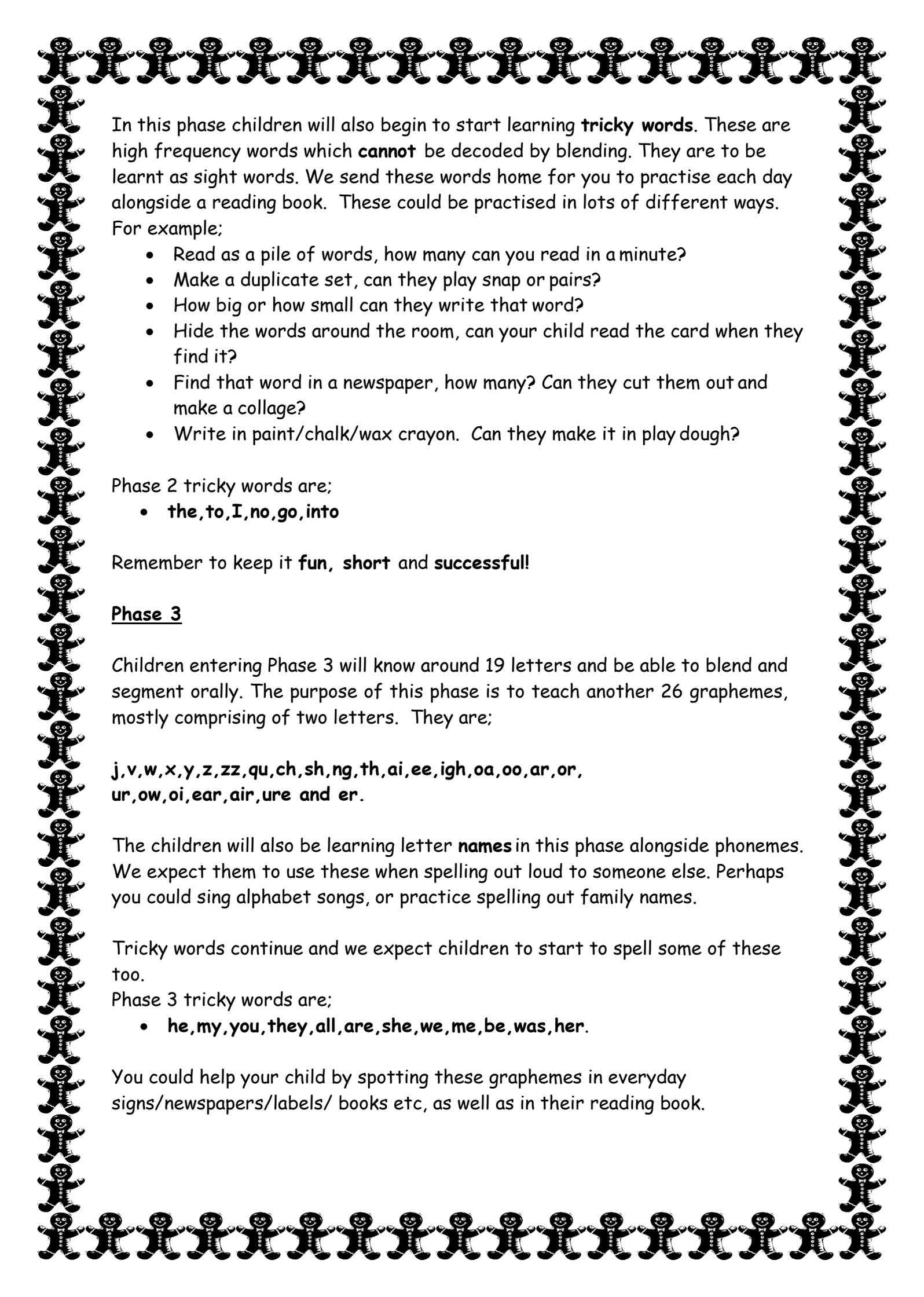
Segmenting is to say the word very slowly to break it down into small parts of the phonemes they hear for writing. We use physical actions to help the children remember what they are doing. Maybe you could ask them to show you. We encourage the children to 'pull' the word apart slowly to hear all the phonemes.

In the classroom phonic sessions are kept fun and active. Examples would be; hunting for hidden graphemes in sand-can they say the phoneme?, writing labels for imaginary charity shop items that are regular objects and easy to segment- such as 'pan', or 'pig', running to each phoneme placed around hall as we say them. Any games you do at home don't need specialist equipment, just everyday household objects to sort, label, match etc. Don't hesitate to come in to discuss this if you want to.

Find objects around the house!

Or cut them out of an old magazine!





In this phase children will also begin to start learning **tricky words**. These are high frequency words which **cannot** be decoded by blending. They are to be learnt as sight words. We send these words home for you to practise each day alongside a reading book. These could be practised in lots of different ways. For example;

- Read as a pile of words, how many can you read in a minute?
- Make a duplicate set, can they play snap or pairs?
- How big or how small can they write that word?
- Hide the words around the room, can your child read the card when they find it?
- Find that word in a newspaper, how many? Can they cut them out and make a collage?
- Write in paint/chalk/wax crayon. Can they make it in play dough?

Phase 2 tricky words are;

- **the, to, I, no, go, into**

Remember to keep it **fun, short and successful!**

Phase 3

Children entering Phase 3 will know around 19 letters and be able to blend and segment orally. The purpose of this phase is to teach another 26 graphemes, mostly comprising of two letters. They are;

j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh, ng, th, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure and er.

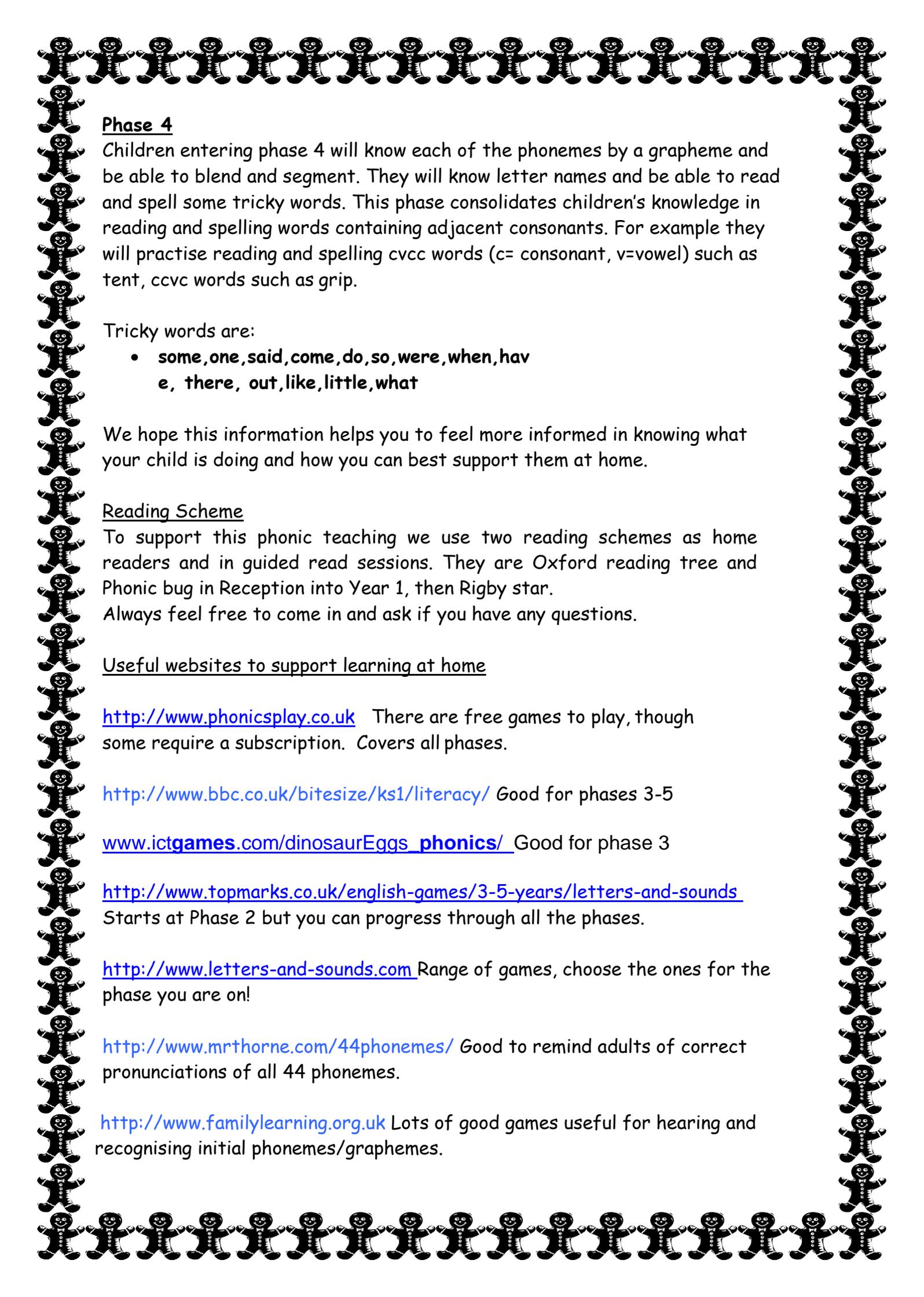
The children will also be learning letter **names** in this phase alongside phonemes. We expect them to use these when spelling out loud to someone else. Perhaps you could sing alphabet songs, or practice spelling out family names.

Tricky words continue and we expect children to start to spell some of these too.

Phase 3 tricky words are;

- **he, my, you, they, all, are, she, we, me, be, was, her.**

You could help your child by spotting these graphemes in everyday signs/newspapers/labels/ books etc, as well as in their reading book.



Phase 4

Children entering phase 4 will know each of the phonemes by a grapheme and be able to blend and segment. They will know letter names and be able to read and spell some tricky words. This phase consolidates children's knowledge in reading and spelling words containing adjacent consonants. For example they will practise reading and spelling cvcc words (c= consonant, v=vowel) such as tent, ccvc words such as grip.

Tricky words are:

- **some, one, said, come, do, so, were, when, have, there, out, like, little, what**

We hope this information helps you to feel more informed in knowing what your child is doing and how you can best support them at home.

Reading Scheme

To support this phonic teaching we use two reading schemes as home readers and in guided read sessions. They are Oxford reading tree and Phonic bug in Reception into Year 1, then Rigby star.

Always feel free to come in and ask if you have any questions.

Useful websites to support learning at home

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk> There are free games to play, though some require a subscription. Covers all phases.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy/> Good for phases 3-5

www.ictgames.com/dinosaurEggs_phonics/ Good for phase 3

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/3-5-years/letters-and-sounds>

Starts at Phase 2 but you can progress through all the phases.

<http://www.letters-and-sounds.com> Range of games, choose the ones for the phase you are on!

<http://www.mrthorne.com/44phonemes/> Good to remind adults of correct pronunciations of all 44 phonemes.

<http://www.familylearning.org.uk> Lots of good games useful for hearing and recognising initial phonemes/graphemes.